
From: Michael Randich <mrandich@cox.net>
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 9:49 AM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: In Regard to CT State Parks and Forests

Dear Sirs:

I would like to register my support for the following initiatives:

- 1. Keeping State Parks Open to Benefit Connecticut**
- 2. Managing Healthy State Forests for Economic, Wildlife, and Fire Threat Reduction Benefits**
- 3. Maintaining independence and expertise for CT Council on Environmental Quality**
- 4. Sustain Funding for Protection of Critical Conservation Lands**

I am a member of the Connecticut Forest & Park Association. They have compiled some very compelling reasons why all of the above initiatives should be supported. In particular:

- A 2011 Economic Study by UConn documented an annual contribution of over \$1 billion and 9,000 private sector jobs to Connecticut from the State Parks. The study highlighted that every \$1 spent on the State Parks returns \$38 to Connecticut's coffers. The study also noted that if investments to maintain the Parks are not made, these economic values will be lost.
- Full-time DEEP Foresters who manage state lands generate an average of \$90,000 annually apiece for the Connecticut General Fund from growing and harvesting forest products. This means they typically earn the state more than they cost.

As a resident of Wethersfield, I have personally seen the benefit of open space preservation (Wilkus Farm land). From my experience, open space preservation opportunities must be acted on when they present themselves. To lose funding in this area now would potentially lose some open space preservation opportunities forever.

Regards, Mike Randich
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